

For fresh fruit and vegetable marketing and distribution in Asia



By Maura
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Interko launches Containerised Ripening Room



Mobile, space-saving system is the result of five years of research and development in partnership with Fyffes

Interko has developed a pioneering Containerised Ripening Room following five years of research and development in partnership with Fyffes.

During that time, Interko has built, installed and tested 120 ripening containers exclusively for Fyffes, resulting in what it describes as “a proven turnkey system that offers a mobile, space-saving, multi-functional and high quality option to ripen fresh fruit anywhere in the world”.

The solution works by constructing a ripening room inside a standard insulated refrigeration container, either retrospectively or from scratch, thereby turning the container itself into a ripening room.

The container can be used to ripen fruits such as bananas, avocados, mangoes and stonefruit, either at the source or in the destination market.

It is designed for companies who want the flexibility of moving their room to a different location by truck or ship; for those who have inadequate infrastructure or space to house a standard-sized ripening room; for those who do not own their building and cannot invest in a permanent facility, or for those who need to respond quickly to a spike in demand on the spot market.

Operators have the further option of either purchasing or leasing the system from Interko.

Chris Maat, managing partner and director at Interko, commented: “Interko first attempted to design a ripening container in 1999, and there have been other attempts within the industry.

“Now, after working with Fyffes for the past five years, we have tested and refined this system to the point where we have 120 container rooms operating

successfully. I don't think any other manufacturer can claim that achievement.

“The Interko Containerised Ripening Room is another example of our continued drive for innovation.”

Measuring 2.6m x 12m, the ripening room can hold 20 full-sized pallets each stacked with up to nine cartons of fruit.

The system has been designed with energy efficiency in mind, and features a bespoke fan design. A gas-tight, high-speed roll door can also be provided for ease of access. The container is supplied with a small control room.

Maat explained: “The advantage of having a smaller space is the reduced volume of free air that is contained within the room, which allows for more direct control over the ripening process, compared with a standard ripening room. The operator relies on the sensors and control system, rather than walking

down the middle aisle to monitor the

rather than allowing themselves to be

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development of the fruit.

"We have proven over the last five years that it is possible to ripen fruit to perfection without manual controls or inspections. In fact, we have found an improvement in fruit quality precisely because operators must follow a stringent ripening process via the control room,

influenced by physical inspections.

"Interko is a global leader when it comes to fruit ripening innovation. We have spent five years testing and perfecting our Containerised Ripening Room prior to this commercial launch; our science is robust!"

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